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WILLIAM BULLOCK CLARK (1860-1917)

Fellow in Class II, Section 1, 1916

As my old pupil and assistant John Mason Clarke has prepared a full memorial for the National Academy and a fine appreciation for the Bulletin of the Geological Society of this my other pupil and good friend, who is now gone, I may set down here more of personal reminiscence of our early work together and many later meetings.

I remember visiting him at his fine home in the beautiful city of Brattleboro where he was an only child, and driving with him up to the large farm which overlooked the city, where he added country life to town life during his school days. I remember his father, a sturdy, respected and influential citizen, and his good mother whom he seemed strongly to resemble.

It was good old Massachusetts Bay stock on both sides, and his ancestor Thomas Clarke was in Plymouth in 1623. In those early days the tribes spread down the Massachusetts and Connecticut shores and up the Connecticut River, along "Puritan Street" as it was called, because the straight route west was dangerous and the meadows of the river did not require clearing.

And so his father came to live in Brattleboro, and Clark fitted for College in the high school of the town.

When he came to study geology he was clear-headed, persistent and enthusiastic.

He mapped, as many of my boys have done, the surface geology around the Golden Gate Pond in North Amherst, a name given by Edward Hitchcock, and the solid geology of a section of the Holyoke Range, and he did his work well.

Near the end of senior year he came to me and announced that he wished to take post-graduate work in geology at Amherst, and wished my advice on the desirability of the plan, in view of the fact that he was color blind. "How did you do your chemistry"? I asked.

If he had a colored precipitate, he said, he showed it to a neighbor with some remark as to its color which was generally corrected, and he noted the correction carefully and memorized the same carefully, and no one knew of the defective vision. I then told him he would have to avoid mineralogy and center in paleontology.

A few weeks before Commencement, I called him and told him that

I was to start for a summer trip to Europe with Prof. Wm. North Rice, and that if he wanted to study geology I could never give him a better chance, if he would come with us.

He went home next Sunday and it was a bomb shell in this quiet methodical family, but he joined us on the trip. I think it had been settled that he should continue abroad for study, for he met me in New York with a large Saratoga trunk and a smaller trunk and I persuaded him to cull out what he really needed and send most of the material home in the bigger trunk.

With my careless and forgetful ways I am afraid I was a trial for him with his methodical and careful habit of doing things, for his interesting letters were sent by his mother down to my home for the amusement of my people, and he often reported how I would plan out everything at night and start in an entirely different direction the next morning.

It was all taken with pleasant equanimity by Clark, and I only learned of it all afterward from the report of his letters.

He carried the "big Dana" as we called it then, Dana's Manual, and studied it faithfully all the way. He took the fullest notes and collected abundantly, and as we studied from Staffa through Scotland, York, Durham, Lyme Regis, Cornwall and down to the Lizard; and as thoroughly through Germany and Switzerland; he had good opportunity for very varied geological work.

At the end I advised him to study with Zittel in Munich as the best place for paleontological and stratigraphical work, and he made a fine thesis on taking his degree.

Now Remson and I had worked together in Göttingen; Professors Harmon Morse and George Huntington Williams were old pupils of mine and so I was naturally interested in Science in the Johns Hopkins, and when Williams needed an assistant I urged Clark for the place, especially, I suggested, because he would never encroach on Williams Optical Lithology work.

And so he started on his remarkable career in Maryland.

He married into another old New England family. His wife was Ellen Clark Strong, daughter of Edward A. Strong of Boston, and through her mother descended from the Clarks of Dorchester and Northampton, and so his four children Edward, Helen (Mrs. H. Findlay French) Atherton and Marion are of the purest strain of puritan descent. His wife by her fine artistic ability was of much help to him, especially in coloring his maps.

It is the more remarkable that this true New England Yankee should have so completely captured the southern State of Maryland.

He first organized the Maryland Weather Service and was made its director.

Then he created the Maryland Geological Survey. This was the work he loved best, and he published ten fine volumes of its results. He had Brögger of Christiania on for a course of lectures at the University, and as I had known Brögger in Norway he invited me down to meet him with a few others, and just naturally commandeered the Governor's steam yacht for an excursion of several days down Chesapeake Bay to study the Tertiary beds. Just as naturally he marched his party in the middle of the morning up from the boat to call on the Governor at the State House, Brögger trying to get the superabundant Maryland mud off his boots with the peen of his hammer. We were taken across to the gubernatorial mansion and treated to the finest hospitality of the South, and Brögger went back to the boat muttering "Mein Gott! Schnapps vor dem Mittagsessen"!

He then organized the Maryland States Roads Commission, one of the pioneers in that valuable work, and later was made executive officer of the State Board of Forestry. He was also Commissioner for the State of the Resurvey of Mason and Dixon's line.

He did as much for his City as for the State.

He was on the Committee to rebuild Baltimore after the great fire; on the Commission on City improvements, and on the Commission to widen the streets and create a civic center for the town. He was also president of the Henry Watson Children's aid Society of Baltimore; member of the State Tuberculosis Association, and vice-president of the Federated Charities of the City.

He belonged to the American, English, and German Geological Societies.

He was a member of the National Academy of Science and Chairman of its Geological section.

He was an L.L.D. of Amherst College, and so efficient in the administrative relations of the Johns Hopkins University that he was prominently suggested for the presidency of both institutions. He was a member of the Maryland Defence Council, and as a member of the National Research Council organized a Committee of about 50 geologists and highway engineers to report with maps on materials for rapid highway construction of our whole Atlantic and Gulf Coasts for a hundred miles back from the seaboard.

I undertook the work for Massachusetts and met him in June, of 1917, on a characteristic telegraphic summons, in Springfield for consultation on the matter, and found him the same genial, cordial, energetic man, grown portly with the years, but full strength and vigor.

He was on his way to "Stonecrop" his summer home at North Haven, Me., and it was a sad surprise to hear of his sudden death from apoplexy on July 27, 1917. If it had to be, it was a fortunate ending of a full life.

B. K. EMERSON.

FRANCIS HUMPHREYS STORER (1832–1914)

Fellow in Class I, Section 3, 1857

Francis Humphreys Storer, born in March, 1832, was a son of David Humphreys Storer, M. D. Harvard, 1825, from whom he inherited an ardent disposition, keen powers of observation, and an absolute sincerity in truth-seeking and truth-stating. His father belonged to a remarkable group of pioneering Massachusetts naturalists who were almost contemporaries in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. David Humphreys Storer published a "History of the Fishes of Massachusetts" in 1853–1867; George B. Emerson, Harvard A. B. 1817, published "Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts" in 1846, a book which is still a classic; Thaddeus William Harris, Harvard A. B. 1815, published "Insects Injurious to Vegetation" in 1841, a pioneer entomological treatise of high merit; Augustus A. Gould, Harvard A. B. 1825, published in 1852 an important volume on the Molusca and Shells collected by the United States Exploring Expedition; Charles Pickering, Harvard A. B. 1823, published in 1848 "The Races of Man and their Geographical Distribution" (Vol. IX of the publications of the U. S. Exploring Expedition).

Francis Humphreys Storer grew up in this atmosphere of scientific research and publication, and was familiar with the scientific work of his father and of his father's contemporaries. Because of his own strong tendency to scientific studies his education did not follow the route ordinarily prescribed for the sons of successful professional men in Boston. He did not go to Harvard College, but to the new Lawrence Scientific School, where he spent the year 1850–51. For the next two years, he was by choice assistant to Professor Josiah P. Cooke of Harvard College, and then at the age of twenty-one he accepted an appointment as chemist to the United States North Pacific Exploring Expedition, and spent a year at sea and in numerous Pacific